My Best

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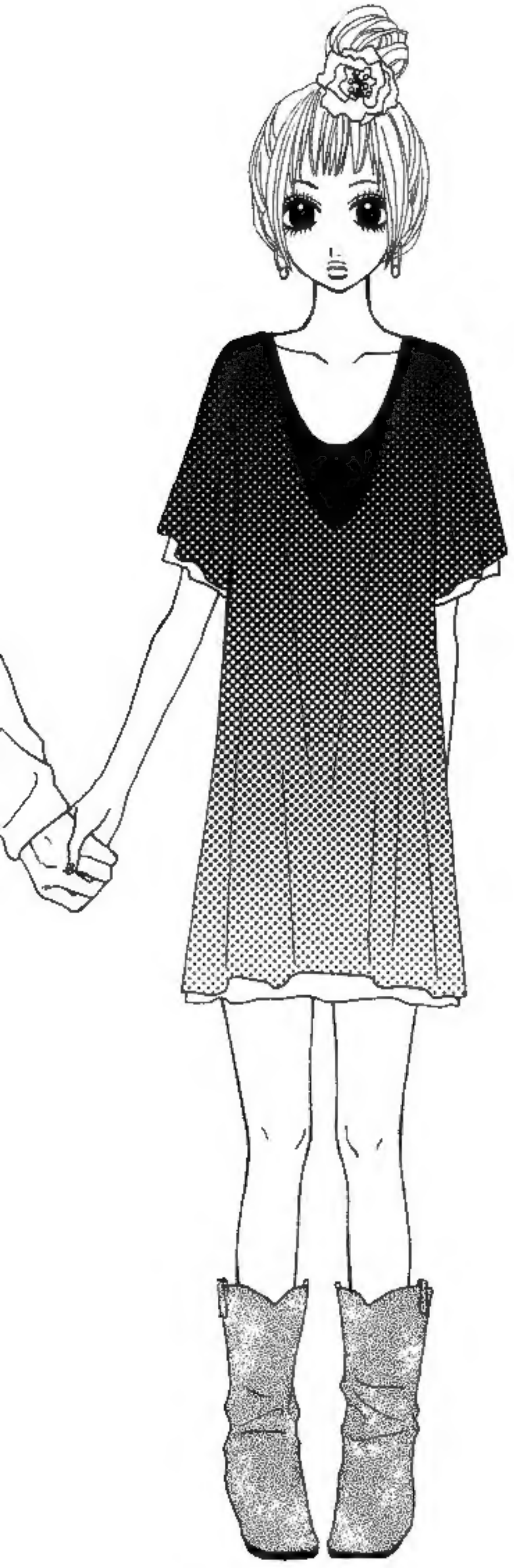

episode. 2

My Best

Fujisue Sakura

IN ALL HONESTY,

I DO WANT BOYFRIEND.

BUT, EVEN SO, AT THAT MOMENT, I DIDN'T REALLY MIND WHETHER I HAD ONE OR NOT.

YOU WERE WITH A GUY,

IN A WAY, I HAD THINGS THAT I WANTED TO DO, AND FUN, FEMALE FRIENDS TO HANG OUT WITH.

AND THAT NIGHT, YOU GUYS ATE TOGETHER ...

HUH? BUT YOU WERE ALONE, WEREN'T YOU?

HE'S JUST A FRIEND. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY WE'VE HAD THIS UNDESIRABLE, BUT INSEVERABLE TIE SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.

I DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND.

SOUNDS PATHETIC, BUT...

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU CALL A DATE?

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A BOYFRIEND?

WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

JUST THE TWO OF YOU AT THE MOVIES?!

WOULD I REALLY DO THAT?

WELL, WHETHER WE'RE ALONE OR WITH OTHER PEOPLE, HE'S JUST LIKE ANOTHER FEMALE FRIEND.

YOU'D EAT DINNER WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIENDS RIGHT?

TH... THATS TRUE.

I'D EAT, I'D EAT.

UEHARA

I'LL PASS. THE STUFF YOU LIKE ARE MANIAKKU,* UEHARA.

NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDIN-ARY.

I HAVE A GUY FRIEND.

WANNA SEE?

WHAT KIND OF DVD DID YOU LEND HIM?

BUT, MAYBE ...

THAT'S EX-ACTLY WHAT I MEAN ...

THAT'S NOT THE COLORS ARE TRUE. REALLY BEAU-TIFUL.

OH, AND TAKEDA. THE TEACH-ER SAID TO HURRY AND TURN IN YOUR ASSIGN-MENT.

WELL, I TOLD YOU AL-READY.

OH CRAP. I TOTALLY FORGOT.

THIS WAS INTEREST-ING. THANKS.

TAP

NO PROB.

*maniakku: specialist hobbies and interests. The nuance of maniakku in Japanese is softer and less likely to cause offense than "otaku"

HUH?

COULD THIS GUY HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME?

BY THE WAY, ARE YOU FREE TODAY?

MAYBE I'M OVERLY SELF-CONCIOUS?

I'D DEFINITELY THINK SO...

WANNA GO OUT TO EAT SOME PLACE?

JUST THE TWO OF US.

WHAT IF HE SAYS SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

It'll take time to change...

ANY-THING IS FINE.

JUST WEAR WHAT YOU'RE WEAR-ING.

it's not a group date

THERE'S JUST GOING TO BE MY SEMPAI AND MIDDLE-AGED MEN, SO DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING.

JUST COME HANG OUT CAS-UALLY ♡

I'M FREE ANY-WAY SO COUNT ME IN.

MY SEMPAI TOLD ME TO BRING ALONG SOME YOUNG GIRLS.

I'LL BE MEETING UP WITH SOME CO-WORKERS FOR DRINKS. WHY DON'T YOU TAG ALONG?

MAYBE I SHOULD GO TOO.

I REALLY BELIEVED THOSE WORDS WERE GENUINE.

OH, HERE THEY COME.

HEY, ISN'T THIS A BIT FAR?

AM I AN IDIOT, OR WHAT?

WE HAD A BIT OF TROUBLE AT WORK.

SORRY, SORRY.

YOU GUYS SHOULD HAVE GONE INSIDE AHEAD OF US.

I SHOULD HAVE ATLEAST CHANGED INTO THE DRESS I BOUGHT YESTERDAY

I'M STARVING

UEHARA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HUH?

REALLY?

AHAHAHAHA

EH

IS THAT FOR REAL?

THOUGHT SO...

SO WHAT ABOUT GOING OUT WITH ME?

SERI-OUSLY?

YOU DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND?

THAT'S CALLED SEXUAL HARRASS-MENT

I WANT TO MEET SOMEONE, BUT...

BUT WHO'S THE ONE GOING ALL OUT OVER THERE?

DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING, SHE SAYS. COME CASUALLY, SHE SAYS ...

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T INHIBIT UNDERLYING MOTIVES MYSELF...

I LOST MY CHANCE TO FIT INTO THE CONVER-SATION...

what a downer

BUT STRANGELY ENOUGH, I GOT TURN-ED OFF ONCE I FIG-URED OUT THE GUY'S HIDDEN MOTIVES.

THAT'S MINE!

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY

HEY!

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I'VE COME TO DESIRE MORE.

EH

I'M NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING.

IT HAD SLIPPED OUT.

I SWEAR.

HUH?

UH ...

NO! ...

TETSU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING LOOKING THROUGH UEHARA-SAN'S BELONGINGS?

AWAWAWA

WOAH

You're dangerous.

AH... HE'S KIND OF CUTE.

and he's polite!

S...SURE YOU CAN.

OH, BUT HOW WILL I RETURN IT TO YOU?

I WANTED TO WATCH THIS. WOULD YOU MIND IF I BORROWED IT?

THEY NEVER STOCK THIS AT THE VIDEO RENTAL STORE.

... NO PROBLEM.

I APOLOGIZE.

THIS

IS IT YOURS, UEHARA-SAN?

...LUNCH.

WITH JUST THE TWO OF US?

UM... ARE YOU FREE THIS WEDNESDAY?

I'VE GOT THE DAY OFF OF WORK, SO IF YOU'D LIKE, LETS GO OUT AND EAT.

WELL THEN... I'D AT LEAST LIKE TO OFFER MY GRATITUDE ...

YOU'RE TAKEDA'S COWORKER, RIGHT?

JUST HAND IT OVER AND LEAVE IT WITH HER.

COULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT... HE FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?!

THIS PERSON ...

I DON'T CARE IF PEOPLE SAY I'VE WITHERED UP AND GONE DRY.

BUT MORE THAN A BOYFRIEND,

AND NOT A MAN-WOMAN RELATIONSHIP, BUT JUST GOING OUT AS TWO HUMAN BEINGS.

RIGHT NOW, THAT'S THE TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP I YEARN FOR.

THANK GOOD-NESS.

I'LL MESSAGE YOU THE DETAILS.

OF COU-RSE WE CAN.

...BUT LIKE I SAID, I'M OVERLY SELF-CONCIOUS

I SEE ...

SO YOU'RE STUDYING FILM, TETSU-KUN?

YEP.

I'M A THIRD YEAR STUDENT AT KUUKAN EIZO.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE YOUR CAREER IN THE FILM INDUSTRY?

EVER SINCE I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, I STARTED WANTING TO TRY A HAND AT MAKING SOMETHING.

SO WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, HE WOULD BRING ME TO THE MOVIES WITH HIM.

My mom didn't complain as long as he spent time with me.

MY DAD REALLY LOVES FILMS,

I'D LIKE TO DO THAT.

BUT IT'S PRETTY TOUGH OUT THERE

I SEE. COLLEGE? TRADE SCHOOL?

2ND YEAR STUDENT AT A TRADE SCHOOL.

I'M STUDYING GRAPHICS.

HUH? WHY? IT WAS INTEREST-ING.

... SORRY ABOUT THAT. THIS CONVERSATION IS TREADING INTO OTAKU TERRITORY, SO LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT...

SERIOUSLY? THE STUDENTS AT MY SCHOOL ARE PRETTY CHARMED BY THE IDEA.

I SEE... GUESS THINGS DON'T ALWAYS WORK OUT...

I GOT SIDETRACKED WITH JOB-HUNTING.

THERE WAS THIS COMPANY THAT I HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO WORK FOR, BUT I FAILED TO GET IN.

ALRIGHT

DO THE BEST WE CAN!

BUT ANYWAY,

LET'S BOTH

YOU MET UP WITH TETSU? ALONE?

HUH?

HE'S JUST A FRIEND.

WE'RE FRIENDS.

SO... ARE YOU GUYS GOING OUT?

AH... OKAY, OKAY.

I'm satisfied

WE WENT TO VIEW FILMS TOGETHER TOO.

YEP.

IT'S LIKE WE'RE DISCOVERING OUR INTERESTS ARE ALIKE OR SOMETHING.

I FAILED AGAIN ...

I SEE ...

WELL, DRINK UP...

WE ATE OUT TOGETHER,

AND DISCUSSED OUR CONCERNS.

IT WASN'T JUST THE MOVIES.

AND SO TETSU BECAME

MY VERY PRECIOUS FRIEND.

WHAT'D YOU THINK ABOUT THE END?

I...

IT'S BECAUSE...

HOW NICE...

IT'S BECAUSE HE'S MY PRECIOUS FRIEND.

I SHOULDN'T TOUCH HIS HAND.

WOAH! AWESOME!

IT'S LIKE THE *MOMENT* WHEN THE SETTING SUN IS SWALLOWED BY THE EARTH,

BURNING INTO MY MEMORY.

...

I'LL TAKE A PICTURE FOR YOU.

I BROUGHT MY DIGITAL CAMERA.

I...

THE PERSON TAKING THE PHOTO SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF THE PERSON WHOSE PHOTO IS BEING TAKEN.

YEAH, BUT, SEE?

I ATTEND PHOTO-GRAPHY CLASS TOO, YOU KNOW.

YOU WANT ME TO TAKE IT?

HOW CONCEITED.

HAHA. ANYWAY, GO STAND OVER THERE.

I HAVE FUN WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.

HE'S A VALUABLE FRIEND THAT MAKES ME FORGET THE TIME WHILE WE'RE TALK-ING.

BUT, HE CAN NO LONGER REMAIN JUST A FRIEND.

HEY.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

TETSU

I LOVE YOU

HEY.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

UME!!! Happy Birthday!! I hope today is a great day for you!
I want to thank you for all the work you do for us!!
There is no way for us to repay you , but we can give you all our love!!!
Hope it's a great day; eat lots of cake^^ ! Hugs and Kisses
-Mizi

Dearest Ume,
Happy birthday!
As one of our founders, thank you for giving it your all.
You're always on the go for the sake of AEStory so there was even a point when
I wondered if you still study, sleep, eat, or even bathe for that matter. XD
But in any case, you worked hard, you did a great job and as a staff member,
I'm really proud and happy about it (oh noes, I'm getting all emo-ish). I hope you have
a blessedbirthday and Bishies at your beck-and-call as some form of present. :D
Lots of love,
The very purple Purplesh

Happy Birthday Ume
- camui

Happy Birthdayy Ume <3333333 ^^
- xjikokox

Happy birthday
- dearman4

Ume, I hope this day blesses you with all the best memories and moments
of your life. You are not becoming one year older, but one year wiser.
Happy b-day! I wish you all the best! Matta ne!
Thanks!
Carol

Happy Birthday!!!! Thank you for all your hard work
and dedication to the goup. Without you none of this would
ever be possible. I hope you have and wonderful day and year
for that matter :)
-AJ, The_Tarrasque

Happy Birthday Ume-chaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!! First of all, thx a lot for accepting me into this group, i really appreciated it!
I'll try my best so no one will be dissapointed^ And so sorry for all the trouble i've caused you before, shh...
what am i talking about!? -.- NOOOO MUST ONLY talk about good stuff!!especially on Ume-chan's birthday!^Anyway, hope u have a
great Birth-Day! LOL! Have fun, hope u're happy always, and have a big, gigantic, yummy cake to eat! XD

All the best from your crazy translator,
Shiren-yuki

"Happy Birthday to you Ume ! I hope you will enjoy that day and have loads of fun and cake ! X3 Make sure to
spare some cake for us :D *hugs* Zeppy"
See you
Zeppy

Omg. Time has flew by fast! u_u. Happy Birthday, Ume! I'd like to thank you for letting me into the scanlation
team, I really appreciate it! So far, you've been such a lovely person to know, and I hope
that during my time in the team, I get to know a lot more about you. I wish you have lots
of fun on this day, with smiles, sparkles, and ... Bishies?! Have a really nice one, hon<3.
- Miyu !

Happy birthday, Ume! Hope you have a wonderful day. It's been great to work with you and befriend you.
Nobu and Hachi will hopefully get back together.
xoxo
Kris

Ume! Happy birthday, girl! Wow... we've come so far, haven't we? I hope your day is fantabulous and
that the year to come is full of wonderful surprises. You've been such a great founder,
friend and really, an all around wonderful person. You've really brought this group far;
and sometimes I wonder how you ever get it done! You're really an exceptional person. So again;
I hope your day is great and you're year is even better.
Best wishes, Rei.

from the 'an endless story staff'
happy birthday ume!